



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

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September 29, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
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Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

REPORT ON PROGRESS IN OBTAINING REIMBURSEMENT FOR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES MEDICAL HUB FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS

On September 1, 2009, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, your Board instructed this Office, in conjunction with the Departments of Health Services (DHS), Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Public Social Services (DPSS), to report back in 30 days, and quarterly thereafter, on our progress on the following items:

1) Working with the Medi-Cal Managed Care Health plans to establish contracts for reimbursement for Medical Hub forensic examinations for pre-detained and non-detained children involved in the child welfare system; 2) working with the California Departments of Health and Social Services on carving out reimbursement to the County for Medical Hub forensic medical examinations at the federal Medi-Cal Share of Cost level, similar to the State's agreements with school-based clinics; and 3) evaluating the feasibility of systematically accessing alternative State emergency/temporary Medi-Cal eligibility programs, such as the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Gateway Program, for children not already enrolled in Medi-Cal.

Background

DHS indicates that most children seen at the DHS Medical Hubs appear to have some form of health insurance coverage. Most children in foster care have fee-for-service Medi-Cal coverage, and DHS is able to receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for examinations for these children. However, most children who are pre-detained or

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non-detained have coverage under Medi-Cal Managed Care, Healthy Families or private insurance, and these health plans consider a Medical Hub visit to be out-of-plan and unauthorized. Therefore, Medical Hub claims for reimbursement submitted to those plans are denied.

Reimbursement from Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plans

As your Board is aware, there are two Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans in Los Angeles County: the local initiative plan, L.A. Care, and the commercial plan, operated by HealthNet.

L.A. Care has an existing agreement which allows school districts to be reimbursed for health services designed to provide care to its students whose families are enrolled in the L.A. Care Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan. Services include the provision of screening physicals under the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) and/or Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) programs for kindergarten and first grade or new entrant students. These agreements ensure the overall coordination of care and case management of L.A. Care plan members who obtain CHDP/EPSDT health assessment services through the school district sites, while maintaining their relationship with their primary care provider.

DHS staff have initiated conversations with L.A. Care, the larger of the two Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans, to discuss the potential of developing a similar agreement between L.A. Care and the County. The intent, in accordance with your Board's September 1, 2009 instruction, is to obtain reimbursement for DHS Medical Hub forensic examinations for children who have Medi-Cal Managed Care coverage. DHS has provided initial data to L.A. Care staff regarding DHS Medical Hub visits, and is working with DCFS staff to provide estimates of the potential numbers of children in the system who have Medi-Cal Managed Care coverage.

Based on this data, DHS staff will work with L.A. Care to develop a proposal which can be considered by L.A. Care executives and, ultimately, by the L.A. Care governing body and by your Board. DHS anticipates more in-depth review and further discussions over the next few months. Once a potential reimbursement mechanism has been outlined, which will serve as a framework for further negotiations, DHS will also engage in similar discussions with HealthNet representatives.

Additionally, DHS will work with this Office, County Counsel and, as appropriate, DPSS in reviewing whether such payment "carve-outs" may also be possible for other third-party coverage plans.

Alternate State Emergency/Temporary Medi-Cal Eligibility Programs

As noted above, DHS indicates that most of the children seen at Medical Hubs appear to have health coverage, and children with third-party coverage are not eligible for temporary/emergency Medi-Cal.

As part of its regular processing, DHS financially screens patients receiving outpatient services at its facilities, including at the DHS Medical Hubs. If patients are found not to have third party coverage, they are referred to patient financial services staff for assessment and application assistance, including applications for Medi-Cal. In order to ensure that the financial screening processes are especially comprehensive for patients seen at the Medical Hubs, DHS Revenue Management staff are working with facility staff to address any issues which may hinder determining eligibility for third party coverage or accessing third party payments, including providing additional training, as needed.

As directed by your Board, DHS will provide quarterly status reports regarding their progress in these areas. The first quarterly report will be provided in January 2010.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact Dara Lark at (213) 974-2396, or via e-mail at dlark@ceo.lacounty.gov, or Cheri Todoroff, Deputy, DHS Planning and Program Oversight at (213) 240-8272 or via e-mail at ctodoroff@dhs.lacounty.gov.

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